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Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 MC-02

AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 EUR-12 /089 W
---------- 031279
P R 300851Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1824
INF AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
SECDEF WASHDC
CINCPAC HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8035

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, PK
SUBJ: ARMS FOR PAKISTAN

REF: TEHRAN 8396

1. I AM IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH LINE TAKEN IN TEHRAN 8396 AND WILL PROCEED ACCORDINGLY WHEN BHUTTO AND AZIZ AHMED ARE AVAILABLE. I HAVE SEVERAL TIMES TALKED TO THEM BOTH ON THIS SUBJECT. BHUTTO SEEMED TO APPRECIATE COMPLETELY THE DELICACIES AND POSSIBLE PITFALLS OF THE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER ROUTE, AND I TOLD HIM QUITE FRANKLY IN A MEETING NOT LONG AGO THAT I FELT AZIZ AHMED STILL THOUGHT IN TERMS OF MAKING QUIET ARRANGEMENTS AND DID NOT FULLY ACCEPT MY WARNING AGAINST SUCH ATTEMPTS.

2. I DO SEE MERIT, IN DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH BHUTTO ONCE AGAIN. I WOULD PEG MY APPROACH TO THE LIST THAT GENERAL TOUFANIAN (TEHRAN 8362) RECEIVED AND POINT OUT
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THAT, AS BHUTTO KNOWS, ANY SUCH TRANSFER OF US

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EQUIPMENT NEEDS PRIOR USG APPROVAL. OUR NASCENT MILI-
TARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP IS STILL BEING REGULARIZED
AND ANY REQUESTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES WITHOUT OUR PRIOR
KNOWLEDGE SERVE TO CONFUSE AN ALREADY COMPLEX SUBJECT.
I PLAN TO EMPHASIZE TO HIM THE POSITIVE VIEW THAT
REGULAR AND SYSTEMATIC CLOSE CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
THE EMBASSY AND THE GOP ARE NOT ONLY IN THE BEST
INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED, BUT WILL ALSO HELP TO
REDUCE DELAYS IN PROCESSING REQUESTS (A MATTER OF
INCREASING IMPORTANCE TO GOP) AND AVOID POSSIBLE
EMBARRASSMENTS.

3. I WILL CITE THE SHOPPING LIST PASSED TO GENERAL
TOUFANIAN BY GOP AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT WE SHOULD
TRY TO AVOID. ALTHOUGH WE ARE CERTAINLY SYMPATHETIC
TO PAKISTANI ATTEMPTS TO MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE
NEEDS, ANY REQUEST WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY NEED OUR
APPROVAL--SUCH AS ITEMS DESIRED FROM IRAN--COULD
BE HANDLED MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY IF FIRST DISCUSSED WITH
US. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE (ODRP 101015Z AUG 75)
THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED SIMILAR LIST FROM GOP, AND I
AGREE COMPLETELY WITH TOUFANIAN'S OBSERVATION THAT
APPARENTLY THE LIST HAD BEEN DRAFTED BY SOMEONE WHO
WAS NOT AN EXPERT ON MILITARY HARDWARE. IN THIS
CONNECTION, WE HAVE ASKED FOR SOME CLARIFICATIONS
WHICH HAVE BEEN PROMISED PROMPTLY BY GOP MILITARY
AND WILL FORWARD LIST TO THE DEPARTMENT WITH OUR COM-
MENTS AS SOON AS CLARIFICATIONS RECEIVED.

4. HAVING SAID THE ABOVE, I THINK I SHOULD POINT OUT
THAT THE PAKS HAVE LONG FELT THEIR CASE FOR OBTAINING
FINANCIAL HELP FROM FRIENDS SUCH AS IRAN, SAUDI
ARABIA, ETC, WAS WEAK
AS LONG AS THEY HAD TO TALK IN
GENERALITIES. THEY HAVE FELT THAT, IF THEY COULD
PRESENT THEM WITH A CONCRETE LIST OF REQUIREMENTS
WHICH COULD LARGELY BE MET BY PURCHASE FROM THE US
TELL THEM THAT POLICY-WISE THE US WAS WILLING TO
SELL THE ITEMS TO PAKISTAN IF PAKISTAN HAD THE FUNDS,
THEIR CHANCES OF SUCCESS WOULD BE FAR BETTER. I
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BELIEVE THEREFORE THAT GIVING THE LIST TO IRAN WAS
LARGELY AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
THEY WOULD APPARENTLY LIKE ON LOAN AND SOME FEW ITEMS
THAT COULD ONLY BE FURNISHED BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.
THE FACT THAT THE LATTER HAVE BEEN ADDED REINFORCES
THE VIEW THAT THIS IS AN EXERCISE PRIMARILY CONNECTED
WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED
THEREFORE THAT BHUTTO AND AZIZ AHMED WILL PRESENT THE

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SAME LIST ON THEIR IMMINENT TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA).

5. I HAVE JUST TALKED TO IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZELLI, WHICH FURTHER REINFORCES THE ABOVE VIEWS. HE WAS TOLD BY AZIZ AHMED THAT THE LIST WAS SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH HE HAD GIVEN ME EARLIER ON. AZIZ AHMED HAD MENTIONED THE FACT THAT ANY TRANSFER OF US EQUIPMENT FROM IRAN WOULD REQUIRE OUR APPROVAL, AND HE THEREFORE ANTICIPATED THAT THE IRANIANS WOULD TALK TO US ABOUT THE MATTER AT TEHRAN. WHILE ALL OF THIS LEAVES US WITH A COORDINATION PROBLEM, IT SHOULD BE MANAGEABLE IN THE END EVEN THOUGH IT LEADS TO CONFUSION AT THE MOMENT.

6. WE SHOULD NOT LET IRRITATION ON MATTERS OF COORDI-NATION OBSCURE ONE IMPORTANT FACT. THE PAKS HAVE NOT INCLUDED IN THEIR LIST SOME GREATLY DESIRED ITEMS, SUCH AS FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, FOR THICH THEY THINK THEIR NEED IS REAL AND URGENT. THEY HAVE DONE THIS IN AN EFFORT TO MEET OUR CONDITIONS, AND NOT PLACE DEMANDS UPON US WHICH WOULD BE EMBARRASSING TO US AND PERHAPS CAUSE US PROBLEMS WITH OUR CONGRESS. IN OTHER WORDS, WHILE INEPT IN SOME OF THEIR PROCEDURES, BY AND LARGE THEY ARE TRYING TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES WE HAVE SET.

7. I BELIEVE I CAN HANDLE QUESTION OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WITH BHUTTO AND AZIZ AHMED TAKING LINE NOTED EARLIER ON IN THIS MESSAGE. SINCE THE DESIRA-BILITY OF SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION IS EVIDENT, I DO NOT FEEL ANY QUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON HOW TO HANDLE THE DISCUSSION WITH BHUTTO IS NOW NECESSARY. THERE WILL BE SOME DELAY IN SEEING HIM BECAUSE OF HIS FORTHCOMING TRAVELS ABROADE--FROM WHICH HE WILL
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PROBABLY RETURN MID-SEPTEMBER--BUT I WILL INFORM DEPARTMENT AND TEHRAN OF RESULTS OF OUR DISCUSSION AS SOON AS IT TAKES PLACE.
BYROADE

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